

Archaeology of the fortified manor in the Czech lands

To the beginnings of the medieval fortified residences

The work is dedicated to the medieval fortified manor in the Czech lands with regard to the need to formulate new questions. He marginally considers the questions of actual and historical terminology and its semantic content. To explore the functions of the fortified manors the structure of the associated settlement is discussed. A substantial testimony is attributed to some of selected written sources pointing to the legal-historical or jurisdictional context of "private" fortified settlements/residences. A separate chapter is devoted to the analysis of several examples of archaeological research from the Czech lands and from western parts of Europe, which revealed situations classifiable to fortified manor, respectively castles, which was preceded by much less or not at all fortified settlements, while maintaining close spatial continuity. So the questions concerning the beginnings of that type settlements are pronounced. With this packet of problems the work deals applying a comparative analysis that leads to some reassessment of the importance of the Romanesque church with the western tower as a kind of reduction of the castle model known from contemporary (12th century) Western European regions and based on the relationship between profane and sacred building - towers and church / chapel. With such a cultural disposition, the Czech lands accepted in the 13th century the kind of building or settlement we label fortified manor.